onstrated to be true in almost every case, it is that when playing against a no-trumper the best opening for the adversaries of the dealer is the longest suit and, if there are two suits of equal length, the suit with the best chance of being established. It is not quite so clear to the majority of players that the best opening for the dealer's side when it gets into the lead, is also the longest ouit, and that as between two suits in which the element : ! length is to be weighed against the element of strength, the length should have the choice.

This is a hard thing for the beginner to understand. He finds, when the dummy's cards are laid down, that there is one suit of seven cards in which he holds three honors. with a possible finesse to make four tricks. and with good luck he may not need the finesse at all. There is another suit in which there are nine cards but no honor, or a single honor

Why not go for the sure four tricks? Because the longer suit will pay best in the end, even if there are four out of the five honors against the holder of the nine-card

There is no fault more common than for a player to start out with the suit in which can take tricks, on the theory that he will probably force discards in the other suit and then when he comes to play that suit, that he will be able to drop it all in one lead after he has got the adversaries to make one or two discards in it. The trouble is that the adversaries can probably follow suit to the shorter of the two suits long enough to hold their protection in the longer suit, which the dealer cannot clear in one lead after all.

To make the theory of playing the stronger suit first work in practice, the dealer must have at least two stoppers in the adver-saries' suit, which they first open, one other suit, which is strong in high cards, and a third suit which is long. What about the fourth suit? Who has that, and why should it had come into play the recognity the dealer. not come into play the moment the dealer forced to quit his strong suit and try to

is forced to quit his strong suit and try to tlear his long suit?

If any discards are forced they will show the partners the suit that it is best to try for the moment they get in again. The first round of the suit they begin with will usually tell whether it is safe to go on with it or not, and few good players will risk leading their own suit again if they think the dealer has the command of it and has made up another suit which he will bring in if the ndversaries continue the suit first opened. The question for the beginner is, What is the dividing line between length and strength, and how is he to tell when to elect one suit and when the other? This was a or suit and when the other? This was a such-mooted question in whist and was never properly settled. In bridge the dealer at least has the

power to count up his suits to the last card and can tell at a glance just what is against him in any suit, both with regard to numby sand to high cards. As a general propo-cition it may be stated that the dealer's side should always start out with the longest uit regardless of strength, due consideration being given to the division of the sui

tion being given to the division of the suit between the two hands.

To take an example one suit has eight cards, four in each hand, while another has eight cards, five in one hand and three in the other. If the suit can be cleared by giving up one trick or by taking one finesse, the suit with five cards in one hand is obviously the better suit, because it is good for five tricks if it can be made, while the other cannot possibly gain more than four, and, if a finesse loses, three only.

From this, go to suits in which there are nine cards between the two hands, five of the suit in one hand, and suits of eight cards, with five in one hand, and the nine-

nive of the suit in one hand, and suits of eight cards, with five in one hand, and the nine-card suit should be selected, even if it is much weaker. Beginners always over-look the immense value of a strong suit as a reentry and forget that if they play the strong suit first they give up just so many chances to get in again and make the longer suit, even if they do clear it afterward.

When it comes to a choice between a suit of seven and one of nine the nine-card suit should have the choice under all circumstances, even if it has but one honor as against three or four honors in the other suit. This principle is continually violated by beginners, who are so attracted by the

1	· 7	00	03	0 8
\$	A Q	<b>4</b> J	<b>♦</b> 2	▲ 8
·	OK	04	2 8	♥ 1O
A	0 5	<b>4</b> 5	7 2	OA
·	2 .	<b>▲</b> 7	<b>▲</b> 3	A A
	- 3 ♦	2.5	4 4	4 K
1	5 .	4.0	<b>♦</b> 6.	▲ 10
•	6.	A .	7 .	4 .
•	8 .	9.	J .	K .
10	17 B	18 O	(2 ♠	10 •
	@ J	7.0	<b>▲</b> ₽	3.0
13	0.0	8.0	Aö	5.0
14	_ K :	10.0	10	9.0

Track 5 Z cannot afford to start the dis- for fielding and hunting ever known.

THE BRIDGE WHIST TABLE.

monds now or he lets in two more hearts, as it is obvious that either adversary can get in on diamonds with four honors between them. He may also lose three tricks in diamonds after the hearts are made, which will be quite enough to save the game for A and B, leaving Z only the odd trick at the most. While there is still a chance to win the game Z must try it.

Trick 8. Having forced three spade discards, it seems quite possible that the queen and jack may fall in two leads. After this finesse fails to come off, it does not matter what Z does, as A and B must win all the rest of the tricks.

Now see how differently this hand goes

CHABLESTON, S. C., Dec. 28.—Those of

all the rest of the tricks.

Now see how differently this hand goes if it is properly played all through, beginning with the correct management of the heart suit on the adversaries' lead and selecting the longest suit in the dealer's forces and persisting in it until it is established. It may seem a hoppless task to

lished. It may seem a hopeless task to clear a suit in which the four top honors are against you, but with nine cards in any suit it is a safe rule to follow to play for that suit always, unless you can win the

TRICK.	1 A	1 Y	B	1 Z
1	07	04	09	Ø 10
2	QO	2 0	JO	3 0
8	OK	OO	♥3	0 6
4	Ø 5	4.5	02	OA
B	KO	40	AO	9 0
6	4 Q	47	<b>4</b> 2	A A
7	2 •	100	43	50
•	3 .	8 0	<b>4</b>	4 .
9	5 .	7 0	. 6	A 8
10	6 .	60	49	<b>♣</b> 10
11	8 .	A .	7 •	10 •
12	Ø 8	A J	J.	♣ K
13	OJ	9 4	Q	K .

Y-Z win four by cards Trick 1. There is no necessity to try to ge

Y into the lead by any irregular plays, be-cause no finesses are contemplated, as it does not matter which hand leads the diamonds.

Trick 2. There are nine diamonds between two hands and only seven clubs, and no matter how much stronger the clubs may be, the long suit is the thing to play for even if there are four honors against it and four honors in favor of the shorter with the processary to begin with the

it and four honors in favor of the shorter suit. It is not necessary to begin with the nine, which would be led if there were any intention to pass it, because that might betray the nature of Z's hand.

It is often good play to lead small cards on the chance that the second hand will cover because he thinks the leader is trying to steal a trick and holds in his hand the cards which are above those in the dummy. Second hand always tries to shut dummy out and often knocks down his partner's good cards by so doing.

partner's good cards by so doing.

Trick 3. Z must pass the second round of hearts for the reason explained in the

or hearts for the reason expanded in the notes on the original play.

Trick 5. The diamonds must be continued. If A held ace and queen, it can not be helped, as the remainder of the heart suit must make in any case. But if B has the ace, it will be impossible for him to not A in again, no matter what he leads.

to put A in again, no matter what he leads, Z having every suit sure without any ne-cessity for taking a finesse of any kind. Trick 6. It would be folly to make a finesse now, just as it has been all through the hand. One should never take any chances of letting the lead get into the hand of a player with an established suit.

If the student will examine this hand carefully, he will readily see that the whole theory on which it was actually played was wrong. It was wrong to plan for finesses to win tricks when the game could be won without them. It was wrong to try to Trick 6. It would be folly to make

without them. It was wrong to try to force discards when none was necessary and it was wrong to take home tricks with the strong suit when there was a much

and it was wrong to take home tricks with
the strong suit when there was a much
stronger suit to play for.

This persistence in playing for a long
suit will sometimes lead to very interesting positions. Here is a hand in which
the player made a great effort to bring
in a suit of seven cards, but was compelled
to discard most of them in order to preserve possible reëntries in other suits.

The score was 24 to 10 against the dealer
on the rubber game when he made it no

on the rubber game when he made it no trump, having honors in all the suits, although only one ace.

TRICK.	A	Y	1 B	Z
1	<b>4</b> 3	4 4	A J	A K
2	V 5	OK	OQ	07
3	O 10	V 2	40	07
4	<b>4</b> 2	<b>4</b> 10	▲ 5	4 7
S	OA	V 3	70	20
6	A A	04	2 .	A 6
1	8 .	Q ·	A .	3 ♦
	7 •	0.6	10 .	K .
9	5 0	100	QO	80
0	5 .	Ø 8	9 .	J
11	6 0	3.0	K O	AO
2	<b>≜</b> 8	Jo	4 .	9 0
3	4 9	0.9	6 ♦	A Q

MAINES HIS CAME

hilled logally and 90 h-lied they the medicing a solid of \$10 throws killed in less black they year. Bearly all of these letted bregatly were come solet relieve. the same hard or the end who are the respective of remaining of remaining and the partner can great what the partner can great what the partner can great what the remaining the partner can great great what the remaining the result of the re

CHARLESTON, S. C., Dec. 28 .- Those of the visitors to the exposition here who succeed in making their way into the social circles composed of the old, exclusive Charleston families, will find themselves in a curious, interesting atmosphere. Here some of the old customs are preserved still and traditions rule. and he had been just recently operated on while under, I presume, the influence of ether. Mr. McSweeney goes on to say that

Old Charleston was a peculiar place, and its people were a peculiar people. They were conservative to a degree, and clung with grim tenacity to all their local traditions, and their quiet assumption of superiority to the rest of the world was sublime in its unreasoning assurance.

They were provincial, intensely provincial, but their provincialism was of a wellbred, high-toned sort that attracted rather than repelled. It had even an element of cosmopolitanism about it, inasmuch as the men of those days were for the most part educated abroad.

There was a certain polish and finish, a combination of dignity and urbanity about the manners of the old-time Charleston gentlemen which marked them wherever they went. Indeed, it was due to this elegance and refinement rather than upon any special intellectual superiority that Charleston did not aspire to be the Athens of the South, but she aimed to understand thoroughly and to practise scrupuously all the forms and usages of polite society

While, however, as compared with outide barbarians all Charlestonians were supposed by virtue of their birth to belong a superior order of beings, it by no means followed that among themselves there were not differences and degrees of social elevation. The laws of Charleston society were as rigid and unchangeable as the laws of the ancient Medes and Persians.

Class distinctions were as pronounced as aste distinctions are in India, the only difference being that it was possible to pass from class to class. Within the sacred limits of the upper stratum of society few could penetrate, save those born in the purple.
Occasionally, for some occult reason im-

Occasionally, for some occult reason impossible to explain, an outsider was graciously admitted within the charmed circle, but as a whole, society was eminently aristocratic and exclusive.

The relations between the classes were harmonious, though the distinctions were sharply defined—perhaps it would be better to say, because they were sharply defined. The shopkeeper, for example—in the old South there were shops and shopkeepers, not stores and storekeepers—the shopkeeper was treated with the most perfect courtesy by his women customers in their business intercourse, but he would never have dreamed of exchanging compliments usiness intercourse, our ne would never ave dreamed of exchanging compliments ith them across the counter or of bowing to them in the street. He and they recog-ized the fact that they belonged to differ-it worlds and revolved in different orbits. Within these broad lines of demarkation core were to be found innumerable shades. ere were to be found innumerable shades nd gradations of difference; nor was the ulf between the classes an absolutely apassable one. The retired tradesman, assable one. The retired tradesman, as son had received a classical educaon, might hope to see his grandson ad-itted within doors fast barred to himself. But in that community it was an accepted axiom that it took three generations to

axiom that it took three generations to make a gentleman.

Of course this did not apply to men of talent who rise to the top everywhere, but it was the prescribed process through which it was considered necessary for the ordinary raw material of humanity to pass before it could hope to be stamped with the hall-mark of gentility.

Nor should mention be omitted of the Huguenot element which was a large and important factor in Charleston society. Unlike the Creoles of Louisiana, instead of holding alcof, and remaining a class distinct and apart, the Carolina Huguenots,

distinct and apart, the Carolina Huguenots, them on their first arrival in colony, thoroughly identified themselves with their English-speaking neighbors, and by marriage and intermarriage soon became an integral part of the general

4 maplet & Parrat Flat.

THE MYSTERY OF LIFE.

the bad man quickly believed in God, im-mortality and Christianity and then passed

over to the undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveller has yet returned. Now, I ask any intelligent man, how are

we to convince agnostics and atheists that

they are wrong if we put forth such an argu-ment as convincing or unanswerable? The opinion of a half-dazed man, recently under

the influence of an anæsthetic, is used to convince unbelievers that they have immortal

souls! But let us assume that the bad man's mind was clear. May not fear have inspired

Some years ago two young men and

him to act as he did?

An Argument by a Catholic Theologian Described by a Catholic as Feeble. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I think few readers of THE SUN will agree with Edward McSweeney that his argument for the belief in immortality is either convincing or unanswerable. His assumption that a cer-

of will. Christians hold that God is free in certain acts, that man is free, but in some acts he is not free, and that angels, both good and bad, are free, although the good are confirmed in grace, and the bad are obstinate in wickedness. Let us have a clear definition of free will. If I only get decisive and precise answers to the questions suggested in this letter, I think I shall be able to throw some light on a subject which interests so many readers of Therrich and that all men are not equally opened to conviction. I beg the writers to remember also that a professor of sacred and profane knowledge may be an imposing figure in a class room, and that men of science may be awe-inspiring in the estimation of their followers, but to The Sun's readers—the intellectual portion of American people—such personages are relegated to the limbo of exploded beliefs, and their writing is alone considered. Those swollenchested gentlemen must give us facts, not fancies: reason, not sentiment: and then perhaps, we shall be able to explain not merely the theory but the condition that now confronts us.

Thenton, Jan. 4. tain story related in the Detroit Free Press proves immortality startled and shocked me. Listen to the argument. A priest is walk-ing in the ward of a London hos ital. The stony stare of a bad man met the eye of the clergyman. The wicked man had lost a leg and a great quantity of blood. "I will give, said the bad man, addressing the priest, "\$100,000 if you prove to me the existence of The reader will please note very carefully two facts which the writer mentions. The bad man had his foot hurt while "wandering half-dazed through the streets of London,

TRENTON, Jan. 4.

Immortality.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: "Involution" in his interesting letter to THE SUN dreams of a day when the Darwinian phrase, "the survival of the fittest," shall be appled in all its sigidity; when it shall cease to be a mere verbalism or an excuse for long-winded academic discussions; when it shall take on blood and flesh and sinew and beome a living, vital principle to determine man's relation to man in the practical affairs of life. "Involution," like Nietzsche, stands for a system of ethics which is entirely new. It is an application of the theories enunciated by Darwin which that great thinker never dreamed of, from which he would have recoiled, or certainly denounced

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SITE Anen

the "Immortality-of-the-Soul" discussion being carried on through the columns of

THE SUN, it is observed that nearly all of the disputants hold the belief that man has

a "soul" or "spirit"-that is, a "something" not possessed by other animals.

This ghost of the skull is known by various terms to various persons and peo les, but the

conception is usually the same a vague supersensible "thing" An examination into

he actions of the organ of circulation

the heart, and the organ of thought, the

brain, shows them to be in some respects

analagous Being given a start, both have

visited an old lady and gentleman who lived in Morris county, N J. The old lady bore as a gross perversion.

What is this remarkable proposition a local reputation for preternatural power She told us ghost stories without number Late at night we bade her good-by. We stripped of needless verbiage, which Nietzsche fathered? It is nothing more or less than had to pass near an old cemetery. I may observe here that not one of us believed in ghosts, although we believed in spirits, that all the emotions, with the single exception of hate, shall be torn root and branch from the human soul: that henceand we placed no more reliance on her word than any sensible man places on the word of the average politician. As we neared the cemetery we heard a strange noise be-hind us. We glanced back, and there I saw forth pity, love, sympathy, generosity, shall be cast out as unclean things. There is to be a gigantic slaughter of the innocents that shall out-herod Herod; "weaklings" are to be branded like the adulteress so that they shall be known of all men, especially ghost that must have been many miles height, with a beard as long as the largest the "strong" ones. In the interests of some ridiculously fantastic being of the future omet, and a countenance that begars description. If my memory does not de-ceive me, I think one of my friends smelled sulphur. At first we were stunned, but we called by Nietzsche the Overman, we are invited to enter upon a grand war of extermination, a war in which every mar's hand shall be against his brother (for how gathered ourselves together and rushed home, terror and dread adding fleetness shall I know that my neighbor is my inferior until I prove it by knocking him down?)
For the sake of some bloodthirsty Attila home, terror and dread adding beetness to our limbs. That night was so miserable and full of dreams and ugly sights I would not spend another such, though it were to buy a world of happy days. The next morning we appointed ourselves a com-mittee of investigation, and we discovered that a goat of the male persuasion had purof cosmic proportions who will be evolved some ultimate and incomprehensible future we are invited to blow up the hospitals, burn the penitentiaries, drown weak children and hang about three-fourths of the women in the world. All the sealed that a goat of the male persuasion had pur sued us with the manifest intention of making an impression on that part of the human anatomy which is least capable of defence. Would you, dear reader, say that our action doors that lead to the primitive instincts are to be picked and the hideous monsters. summoned from their lairs, are to be let loose on the planet; all the doors that lead on that memorable night proved the exloose on the planet; all the doors that lead to love and pity are to be walled up.

After this mighty horde of bruisers has cleared the world of what it; sublimely naive precursors euphemistically call
the "incompetents," there will of course
have to be a contest among those left
to decide who are the most competent
to carry on the great work of regeneration—
the final man and woman who are to beget
this mighty swashbuckler. So the knockdown argument will begin again, and the
male and female who are left will of course
be the most competent among the slain com-

istence of ghosts?

The following night a friend told us he would sleep in the cometery at the darkest hour we should name. He went to the cemetery at 11 o'clock at night and we promised. istence of ghosts? not to disturb him in any way. I am sorry to say we did not keep our promise. We dressed like the three witches in Macbeth, dressed like the three witches in Macoeth, and sallied forth singing very discordantly. Fair is foul, and foul is fair. When our friend saw us, he was so consumed with terror that Dante alone could describe his feelmale and female who are left will of course be the most competent among the slain competent who killed the less competent.

One may look at this matter tragically or humorously: it depends on the mood Might has its rights and right has its mights, the problem of life is to find a common ground on which both can meet; to reconcile the real and the ideal, man and nature. Might unrestrained by right would mean chaos, right without the power of might is inconceivable.

Meantime, while we are all waiting in fear and trembling for the strong man around the corner to knock on our doors and drag us from our beds because he happens to consider us "incompetents," I do not think that Nietzsche, "Involution" and their disciples (who are all competent men) should be taken too seriously. BENJ DE CASSERES.

NEW YORK, Dec. 30. ing. He saw the air imbrowned with shadows, he was neither dead nor alive, even the air was fear-struck. His hair stood on end and words got stuck in his throat, each particular hair standing like quills upon the fretful porcupine. He crossed tombstones, ditches, hedges, rivers, fences with as much celerity as Marconi's electric messenger after this comical occurrence he assured three of us that he saw fifty thousand devils. each one of them a monster horrible, mis-shapen, huge, and deprived of his eye Monstrum horrendum, informe, ingens, cui lumen ademptum. A few years ago the number reached 500,000. Recently he entered the political arens, and now, I suppose the billion mark is crossed.

Who would think of quoting our friend as an authority on ghosts? Feer alone inspired all of us, and fear robs a man of reason, or, at least, casts very dark shadows over that par-

the Creoles of Louisiana, instead ing alcof, and remaining a class and apart, the Carolina Huguenots, of the most ungracious reception berry on their first against the carolina Huguenots. complete the decident in afterward of seven at the decident in afterward of seven at the control respect to the co thoroughly identified themselves admit, that there is a future conscious existence But where is the proof that it will continue through the endless ages? Who

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For Toledo, except Saturiasy. Dining Car.
7:55 P. M. PACIFIC EXPRESS.—For Pittsburg
and Chicago. For Knoxville daily, via Shenan
doah Valley Route. Connects for Cleveland except Saturday.
2:25 P. M. CLEVELAND AND CINCINNATI
EXPRESS.—For Pittsburg, Cleveland and Cha-

WASHINGTON AND THE SOUTH.

7.55, 8:25, 9:25 (Dining Car), 10:10 (Desbroses and Cortland) Streets, 10:20 (Dining Car), 10:35 (D WASHINGTON AND THE SOUTH

FOR PHILADELPHIA.

FOR PHILADELPHIA.

6-10 (Desbrosses and Cortland) Streets, 6-20, 1-23, 7-55, 8-25, 8-55, 9-25 (Dinling Car), 9-35 (Penna Um) tiedt, 10-10 (Desbrosses and Cortland) Street 10-20), (Dinling Car), 10-35 (Dinling Car), 11-35 (Milling Car), 10-35 (Dinling Car), 11-35 (Milling Car), 10-35 (Dinling Car), 11-35 (Milling Car), 11-35 (Milling Car), 11-35 (Milling Car), 12-35 (Dinling Car), 12-35 (Dinling Car), 13-35 (Milling Car), 13-3

NEW JERSEY CENTRAL

Week Days | Sundays

Easton Local
Easton Local
Scranton & Reading
Scranton & Reading
Mauch Chunk & Reading
Mauch Chunk & Reading
Lakewid & Atlantic City
Lakewid & Atlantic City
Lakewood & Barnegat
N. Y. & Long Branch R.R.
N. Y. & Long Branch R.R.
N. Y. & Long Branch R.R.
N. Y. & Long Branch R.R. 210 15 a m. 14:00 p. m.

ROYAL BLUE LINE FOR PHILADELPHIA.

1\*4.25, \*8:00, \*9:00, \*10:00, \*11:30, A. M. \*1:00, \*1.30, \*8:00, \*3:40, \*4:00, \$14:00, \*4:30, \*5:00, \*7:00, \*7:30, \$8:00, \*19:25 P. M., \*12:15 md1. BALTIMORE AND WASHINGTON. BALTIMORE AND WASHINGTON.

18:00, \*10:00, \*11:30 A. M., \*1:00, \*1:30, \*8:40, \*5:00.

\*7:00 P. M., \*12:15 indt.

Offices: Liberty St. Ferry, South Ferry, 113, 261, 434, 1300, 1351 Broadway, 182 5th av., 727 5th av. 25 Union Sq. West, 135 East 125th st., 273 West 128th st., 245 Columbus av., New York, 4 Court st. 344, 800 Fulton st., Brooklyp: 98 Broadway, Williams burg. New York Transfer Co. calls for and checks baggage to destination.

[From Liberty st. only. \*Daily. \*Daily. except

Sunday Sunday only BALTIMORE & OH!O RAILROAD. Leave New York City. South Ferry. Liberty St.

Calcago, Pittsburg. 12,10 ngt. 12,15 ngt.
Chicago, Columbus. 12,55 p.m. 1300 p.m. Pittsburg. Cieveland. 12,55 p.m. 14,00 p.m. Diner.
Pittsburg. Cieveland. 12,55 p.m. 14,00 p.m. Diner.
Pittsburg. Limited. 6,55 p.m. 1200 p.m. Diner.
Cincinnatt, St. Louis. 12,10 ngt. 12,15 ngt.
Cincinnatt, St. Louis. 12,55 a.m. 10,00 a.m. Limited.
Norfolk. 12,55 p.m. 11,00 p.m. Hinter. ROYAL BLUE TRAINS Washington, Balto. 17.55 a.m. 18.0 a.m. B. Washington, Balto. 17.55 a.m. 10.00 a.m. D. Washington, Balto. 19.55 a.m. 11.20 a.m. 12.20 a.m. 12.2

New York and Boston all Rail.

Leave Brock Grand Central Station

Leave By way of 1000 a M. Hardord and Wolfmantle. 2 for 1 M 900 a M. Prefitting and Wolfmantle. 2 for 1 M 900 a M. Prefitting and Wolfmantle. 2 for 1 M 900 a M. State London and Providence 3 for 1 M 900 a M 900 Through paring and steeping care by the Beturn service same hours and in case in T. HEMPSTEAT. Gen. Page

WEST SHORE RAILROAD

LEHIGH VALLEY.

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LACKAWANNA RAILHOAD.

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